

REMARKS

In the subject Office Action, the examiner rejected Claims 18-19, 21, 26-28 and 30 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and the remaining claims under 35 USC 102(e) and 35 USC 103(a). Applicants request reconsideration of their application in view of this response, which cancels Claims 18-21 and 23-33, amends Claims 1-2, 5, 7-10, 12-13, 17 and 22, presents new dependent Claim 34, and provides arguments supporting allowance of the pending claims.

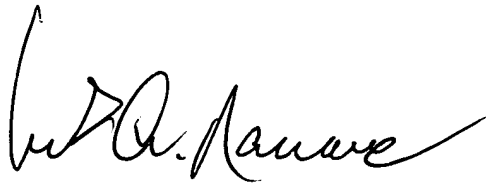
The rejection of independent Claim 1 is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 as amended herein is directed to a vehicle-related application of a supportive load-bearing bladder in which the measured pressure and its perturbation characteristics are used to determine presence and medical condition of the vehicle occupant following a collision of the vehicle. The examiner's rejection of canceled Claims 19 and 28 states that the specification does not disclose how it is possible to determine the incidence of a vehicular collision or the presence of a subject in a vehicle after a collision. Applicants disagree and point out that determining the incidence of a vehicle collision was well known and practiced in production vehicles for many years prior to the filing date of this application. The incidence of a collision is a requirement for air bag deployment, and virtually all vehicles produced several years prior to the filing date of this application included collision detecting sensors and circuitry. Moreover, many vehicles produced in this same time period included wireless notification of the crash event and vehicle location; see for example, General Motors' On-Star system. Accordingly, merely disclosing the step of detecting the incidence of vehicle collision enables a person skilled in the art to practice the invention, as required by 35 USC 112, first paragraph. As to determining occupant presence based on the bladder pressure, see Applicant's specification, page 3, lines 20-26 and page 7, lines 28-29. Clearly, the specification would enable a person skilled in art to practice that aspect of the invention as well. Since the requirements of 35 USC 112 have been demonstrably satisfied and no combination of the cited references teach or suggest

the limitations of amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1, and the pending claims depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

Claims 2-17, 22 and 34 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, and are patentable over the cited prior art at least by virtue of such dependency. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections of Claims 2-17 and 22 be withdrawn. Furthermore, newly added Claim 34 incorporates subject matter disclosed in the specification but previously omitted from the claims, which is also neither shown nor suggested by the cited prior art.

In view of the above, Claims 1-17, 22 and 34 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Navarre", with a stylized, flowing script.

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